(Ireland.)

A

B I L L

[AS AMENDED BY THE COMMITTEE]

For the Abolition of the exclusive Privilege of Trading, or of regulating Trades, in Cities, Towns or Boroughs in Ireland.

[N. B.—*The Clauses marked* (A.) *and* (B.) *were added by the Committee.*]

WHEREAS in certain counties of cities, counties of towns, cities, towns and boroughs in Ireland, certain persons styling themselves Guilds, Crafts, Incorporations or Fraternities, or claiming to be members of Guilds, Crafts and Fraternities, claim to possess exclusive privileges of dealing in certain merchandize, and of carrying on or exercising certain trades, occupations, mysteries or handicrafts, or of regulating, controlling or restraining persons in the use or exercise of such trades, occupations, mysteries or handicrafts, and the admission of apprentices to learn and practise the same or other matters relating thereto respectively, within their respective cities, towns or boroughs, as well by making bye-laws in relation thereto, as otherwise; and claim is made on the part of bodies styled Guilds, Crafts, Incorporations or Fraternities to the existence and exercise of rights and powers entitling them to prevent persons not being members, or not conforming to the regulations thereof, from dealing in such merchandize, or from carrying on or exercising such trades, occupations, mysteries or handicrafts, or from being apprenticed to learn the same, within such cities, towns or boroughs; and also to the existence and exercise of rights, powers and authorities enabling them to impose pains, punishments, penalties, forfeitures, fines and imprisonment, in respect of the said matters or some of them: Preamble.

And

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And whereas it has become expedient that any such exclusive privileges, rights, powers and authorities should be abolished;

Be it therefore Enacted, by The QUEEN's most Excellent MAJESTY, by and with the Advice and Consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, THAT from and after the passing of this Act, no exclusive privileges, and no such rights, powers or authorities as aforesaid shall be exercised or enjoyed, or shall be henceforth treated as existing; and it shall be lawful for any person or persons to deal in any merchandize, and to carry on, use and exercise any lawful trade, occupation, mystery or handicraft, and to take apprentices to learn the same, in any city, town or borough and elsewhere in Ireland, without being a member of any Guild, Craft, Incorporation or Fraternity, and free from any control, regulation, restraint or interference of any Guild, Craft, Incorporation or Fraternity whatsoever, any royal charter, grant or letters patent, or any prescription, custom or bye-law to the contrary notwithstanding.

1. Exclusive privileges and rights as to Trades in Cities, Towns or Boroughs in Ireland to cease.

2. Actions and informations to be discontinued.

And be it Enacted, That after the passing of this Act it shall be lawful for any person or persons against whom any action, bill, plaint or information shall have been sued out, commenced or prosecuted by or on behalf of any body or persons claiming to be or styling itself or themselves as such Guild, Craft, Incorporation or Fraternity, for the recovery of any pecuniary penalty or penalties, forfeiture or sum incurred or payable on or before the day of the passing of this Act, under or by virtue or in respect of any such alleged exclusive privilege, or any such alleged rights, powers or authorities as aforesaid, or in respect of any of the matters aforesaid, to apply to the Court in which such action, bill, plaint or information shall have been sued out, commenced or prosecuted, or to any Judge of any of the Superior Courts at Dublin, for an order that such action, bill, plaint or information shall be discontinued, upon payment of the costs thereof which were incurred on or before the First day of April in the year One thousand eight hundred and Forty-six, such costs to be taxed according to the form of such Court; and every such Court or Judge, upon such application, shall make such order as aforesaid; and upon the making of such order, and payment or tender of such costs as aforesaid, such action, bill, plaint or information shall be forthwith discontinued.

3. Act not to repeal or alter 23 & 24 G. 3, c. 23, or 47 G. 3, s. 2, c. 15.

Provided always, and be it Enacted, That nothing in this Act contained shall repeal or alter any thing contained in an Act passed in the Parliament of Ireland in the Session held in the twenty-third and twenty-fourth years of the reign of his late Majesty King GEORGE the Third, intituled, "An Act to regulate the Assay of Gold and promote the Manufacture of Gold and Silver Wares in this Kingdom,"

or

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or an Act passed in the forty-seventh year of the reign of his said late Majesty King GEORGE the Third, intituled, "An Act to provide for the regulating and securing the Collection of the Duty on Gold and Silver Plate wrought or manufactured in Ireland," or so much of the said recited Acts as is now in force.

4. CLAUSE (A.) Act not to alter or affect Provisions of 3 & 4 Vict., c. 108.

Provided always, and be it Enacted, That nothing herein contained shall in any manner alter or affect the provisions of an Act passed in the Session of Parliament held in the third and fourth years of the reign of Her present Majesty, intituled, "An Act for the Regulation of Municipal Corporations in Ireland," or the construction thereof; but the same shall be construed and applied as if this Act had not passed.

5. CLAUSE (B.) Interpretation Clause.

And be it Enacted, That in the construction of this Act, unless there be something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction, every word importing the singular number only shall extend and be applied to several persons and things as well as to one person or thing, and the converse.

6. Act may be amended, &c. this Session.

And be it Enacted, That this Act may be amended or repealed by any Act to be passed in this present Session of Parliament.

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